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POL 23-9 GREECE (58)

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action NEA

Info SS GPM SP SC SAH L H EUR P NSC INR O SY OPR CC RSR

O R 211310Z APR 67
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEXDA/SECDEF
RUEKDA/DIA
RUFPDK/USCINCEUR
RUFRC/USDOCOSOUTH
STATE GRNC
BT

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1967 APR 21 PM 2 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4730

ROUNDUP AS OF 1800 LOCAL APRIL 21
1. SWEARING IN OF PRIMIN KOLLIAS, SPANDIDAKIS, KARADETSOS, APOSTOLAKOS, AND PAPADOPOULOS, REPORTED SEPARATELY INDICATES KING HAS COME TO SOME AGREEMENT WITH MILITARY JUNTA. ABSENCE OF CIVILIANS (EXCEPT KOLLIAS AND APOSTOLAKOS) FROM GOVERNMENT INDICATIVE OF GENERAL ATTITUDE OF REPUGNANCE. THIS TOGETHER WITH ABSOLUTE CURFEW COMMENCING 1830LOCAL HAS EFFECT OF FREEZING SITUATION FOR THE MOMENT. ONLY

PAGE 2 RUQMAT 4730 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TRAFFIC IN AREA AROUND EMBASSY IS MILITARY AND TRICKLE OF CIVILIAN CARS RACING TO MAKE DEADLINE.

2. DRACONIAN MILITARY MEASURES SO FAR HAS IMPRESSED POPULACE THAT ARMY MEANS BUSINESS. WE HAVE HAD NO WORD SO FAR OF ATTEMPTED RESISTANCE IN ATHENS AREA SIMILAR TO THAT TRIED AT VOLOS AND SALONIKA. NEXT 48 HOURS WILL BE PERIOD OF REAL CRUNCH WHEN MILITARY ATTEMPTS TO CONSOLIDATE PRESENT SURFACE CONTROL AND WHEN ANY RESISTANCE OR ENDEAVOR TO "REVERSE COUP", IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WILL HAVE TO COME. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DURING DAY AT LEAST SOME MEMBERS OF KING'S IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE HAVE DELIBERATED ON WHAT MEANS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO REVERSE COUP. OBVIOUS DIFFICULTY IS THAT SUCH REVERSAL WOULD INVOLVE ASSURANCES OF; SOME IMMEDIATE RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY AND SOME PROMISE OF ELECTIONS. NEITHER KING NOR ERE CAN NOW AVOID STIGMA OF GENERAL PUBLIC BELIEF THAT THEY ORDERED MILITARY ACTION, WHICH WOULD MEAN SURE DEFEAT FOR ERE AT POLLS.

3. MY EARLIER TENTATIVE IMPRESSION THAT COUP TRIGGERED BY

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Attached 4 FR 21 67 4730

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PAGE 4 RUQHAT 4780A C O N F I D E N T I A L

SMALL ARMY GROUP NOT INCLUDING HIGH COMMAND HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY SUBSEQUENT REPORTS. (ATHENS 4753 AND 4767). I PRESUME THAT SPANDIDAKIS, WHEN FACED WITH INEVITABILITY OF ACTION BY JUNIOR OFFICERS, AGREED TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SOME CONTROL.

GP-3
TALBOT
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 4-21-67 2:10PM
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